

Appl. No. : 10/717,034  
Filed : November 18, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 25-26 and 30-32 remain pending in the present application, Claims 27 and 28 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims set forth above include marking to show the changes made by way of the present amendment, deletions being in ~~strikeout~~ and additions being underlined.

In response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

The Applied Combination of Tsunamoto et al./Nitta et al. Does Not Make Claims 27 and 28 Obvious

Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tsunamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,871,996) in view of Nitta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,846,102). Applicants respectfully traverse the present rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled Claims 27 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the present rejections of Claims 27 and 28 are moot. Additionally, Applicants expressly reserve the right to further prosecute the original version of Claims 27 and 28 through continuation practice.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any

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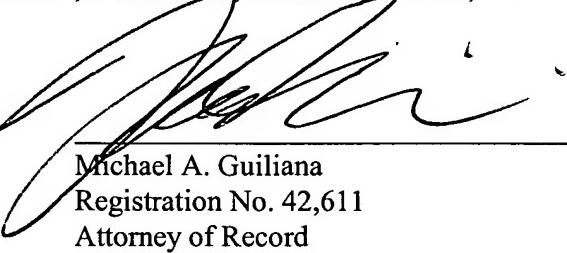
undevloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 6, 2005

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